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DIE!
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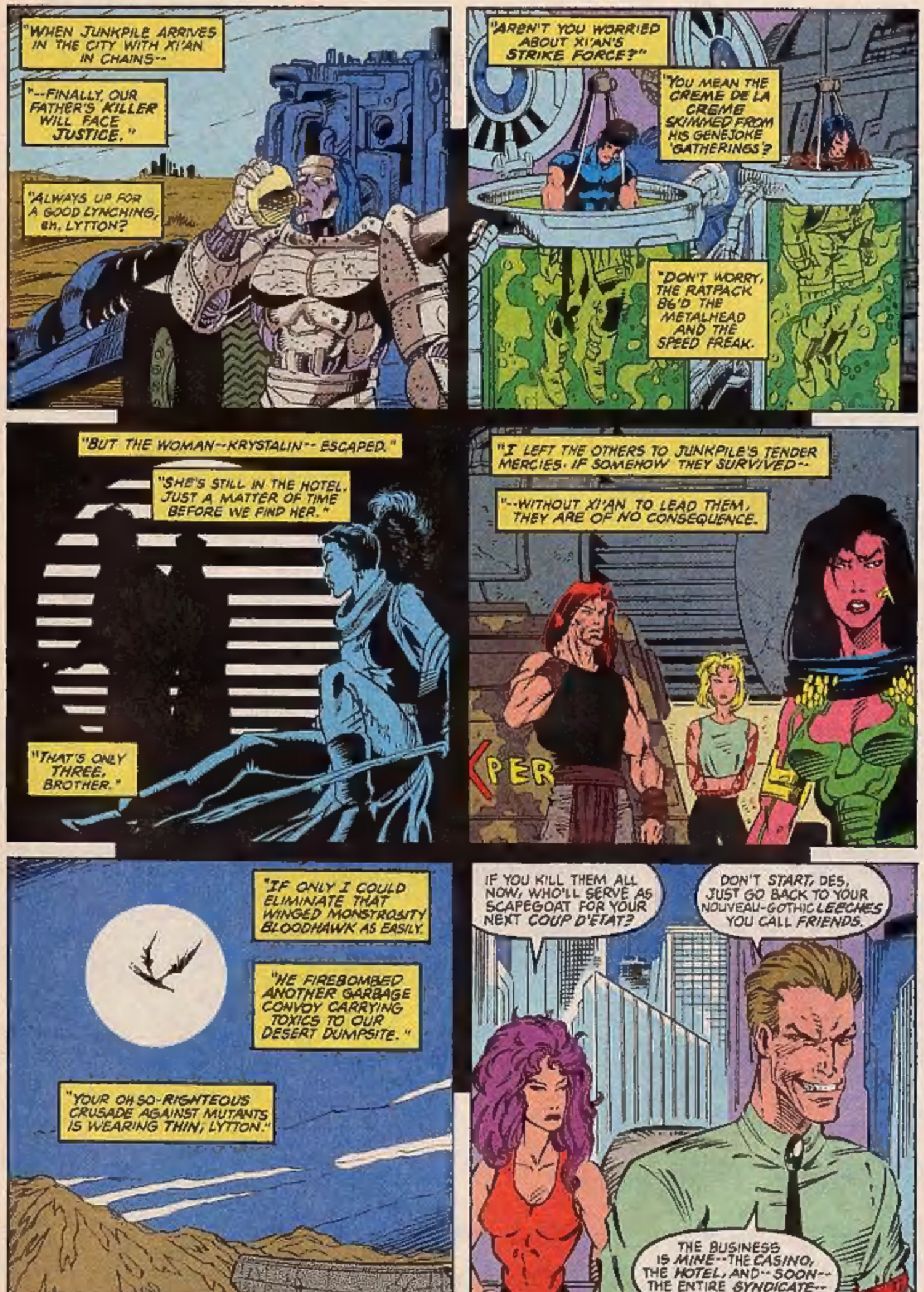
"WHEN JUNKPILE ARRIVES IN THE CITY WITH XI'AN IN CHAINS--
"--FINALLY, OUR FATHER'S KILLER WILL FACE JUSTICE."
"ALWAYS UP FOR A GOOD LYNCHING, EH, LYTTON?
"AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT XI'AN'S STRIKE FORCE?"
"YOU MEAN THE CREME DE LA CREME SKIMMED FROM HIS GENEJOKE 'GATHERINGS'?
"DON'T WORRY, THE RATPACK B6'D THE METALHEAD AND THE SPEED FREAK.
"BUT THE WOMAN--KRYSTALIN-- ESCAPED."
"SHE'S STILL IN THE HOTEL. JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE FIND HER."
"THAT'S ONLY THREE, BROTHER."
"I LEFT THE OTHERS TO JUNKPILE'S TENDER MERCIES. IF SOMEHOW THEY SURVIVED--
"--WITHOUT XI'AN TO LEAD THEM, THEY ARE OF NO CONSEQUENCE.
PER
"IF ONLY I COULD ELIMINATE THAT WINGED MONSTROSITY BLOODHAWK AS EASILY.
"HE FIREBOMBED ANOTHER GARBAGE CONVOY CARRYING TOXICS TO OUR DESERT DUMPSITE."
"YOUR OH SO-RIGHTEOUS CRUSADE AGAINST MUTANTS IS WEARING THIN, LYTTON."
IF YOU KILL THEM ALL NOW, WHO'LL SERVE AS SCAPEGOAT FOR YOUR NEXT COUP D'ETAT?
DON'T START, DES, JUST GO BACK TO YOUR NOUVEAU-GOTHIC LEECHES YOU CALL FRIENDS.
THE BUSINESS IS MINE--THE CASINO, THE HOTEL, AND--SOON--THE ENTIRE SYNDICATE--

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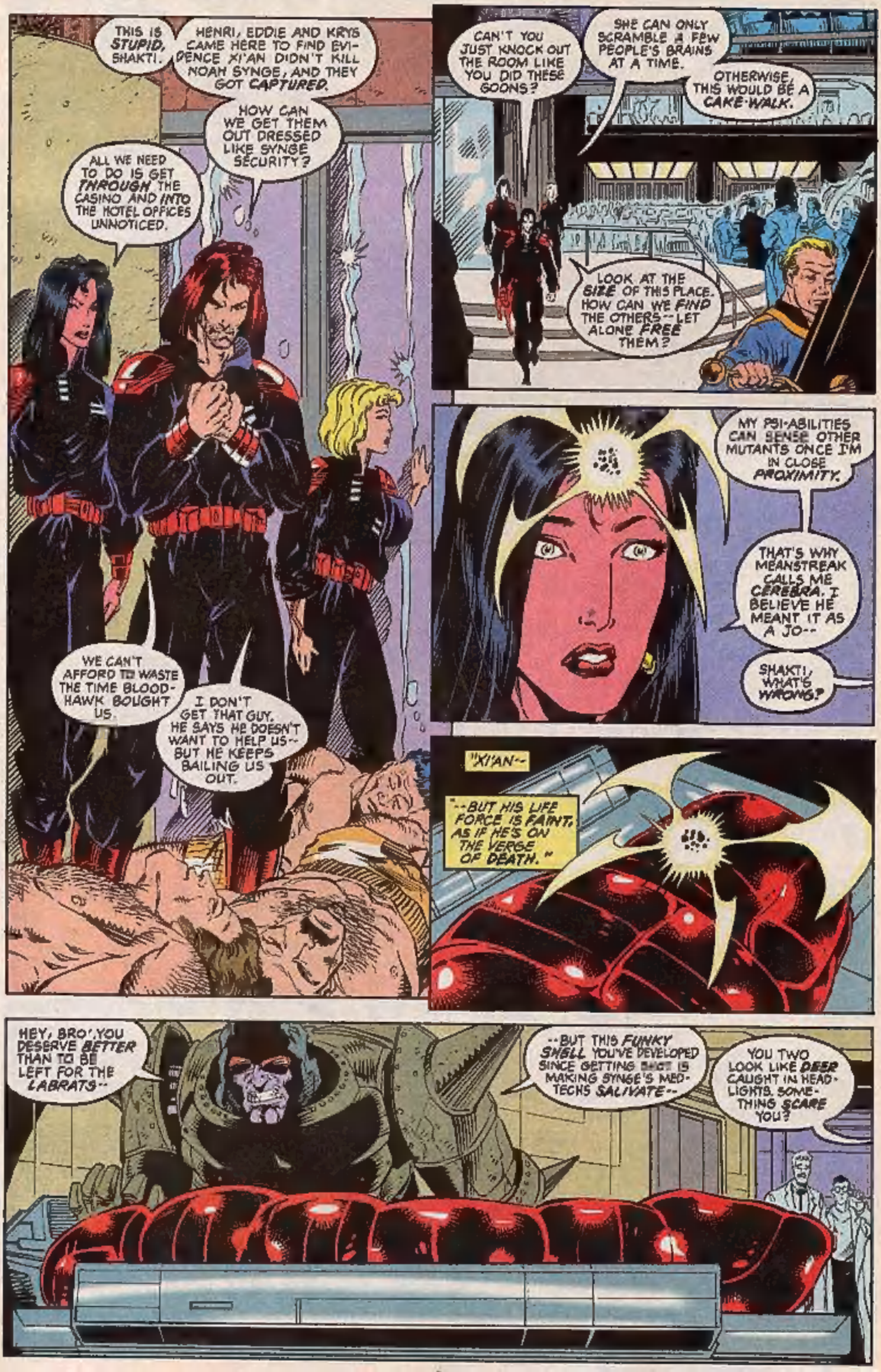
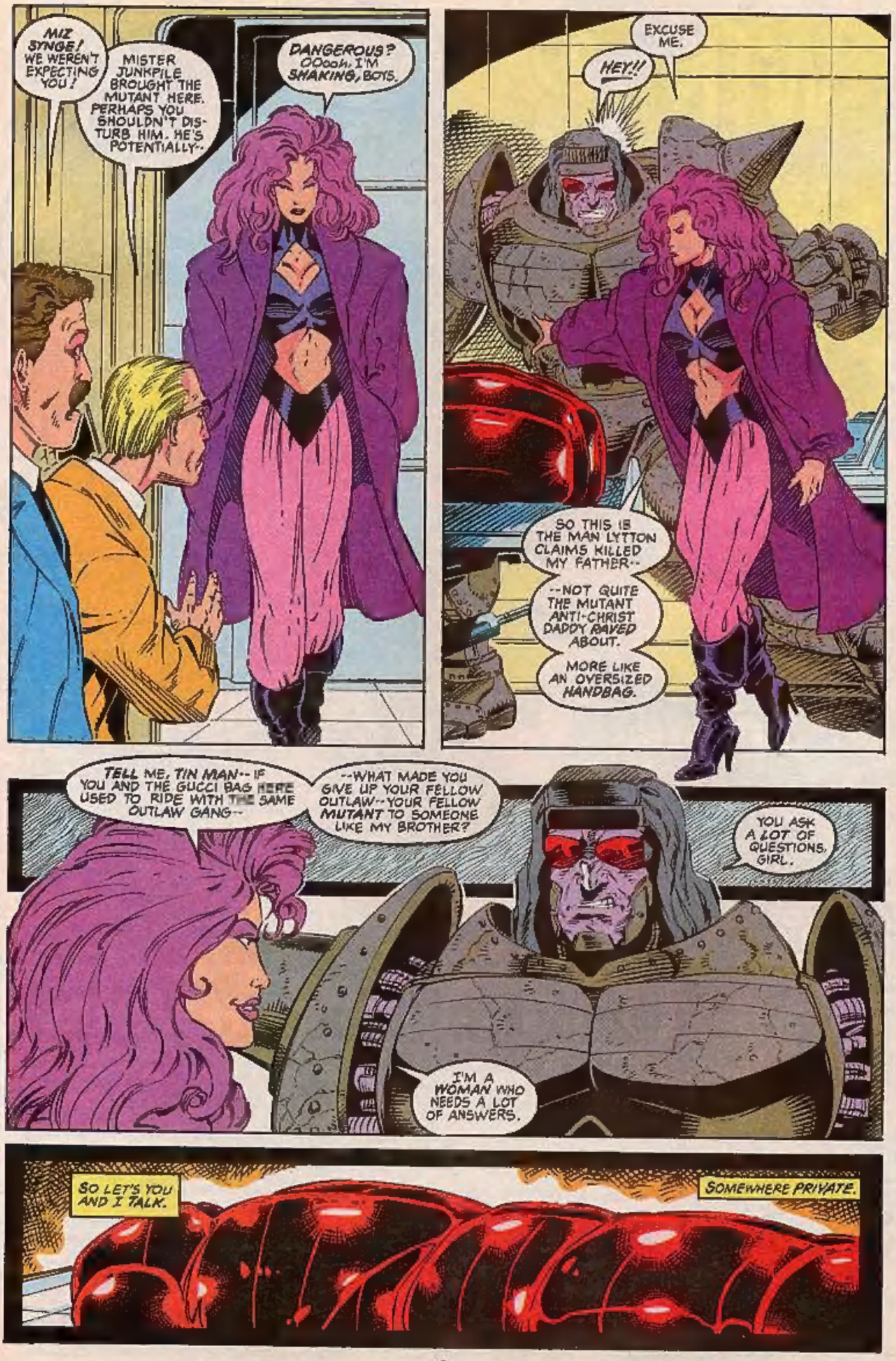
Viva Las Vegas
"...AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYTHING GET IN THE WAY OF MY RIGHTFUL INHERITANCE."
SOMEBODY CALL SYNGE!
WE HAVE A SITUATION ON THE STRIP!
KRASH!
BLOODHAWK'S RETURNED!
KEN LOPEZ AND JON BABCOCK LETTERERS
TOM SMITH COLORIST
JOEY CAVALIERI EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO CHIEF
JOHN FRANCIS MOORE WRITER
RON LIM PENCILER
ADAM KUBERT, CHRIS IVY, JIM SANDERS III, CAM SMITH & GARY MARTIN INKERS ALL, TRIED AND TRUE

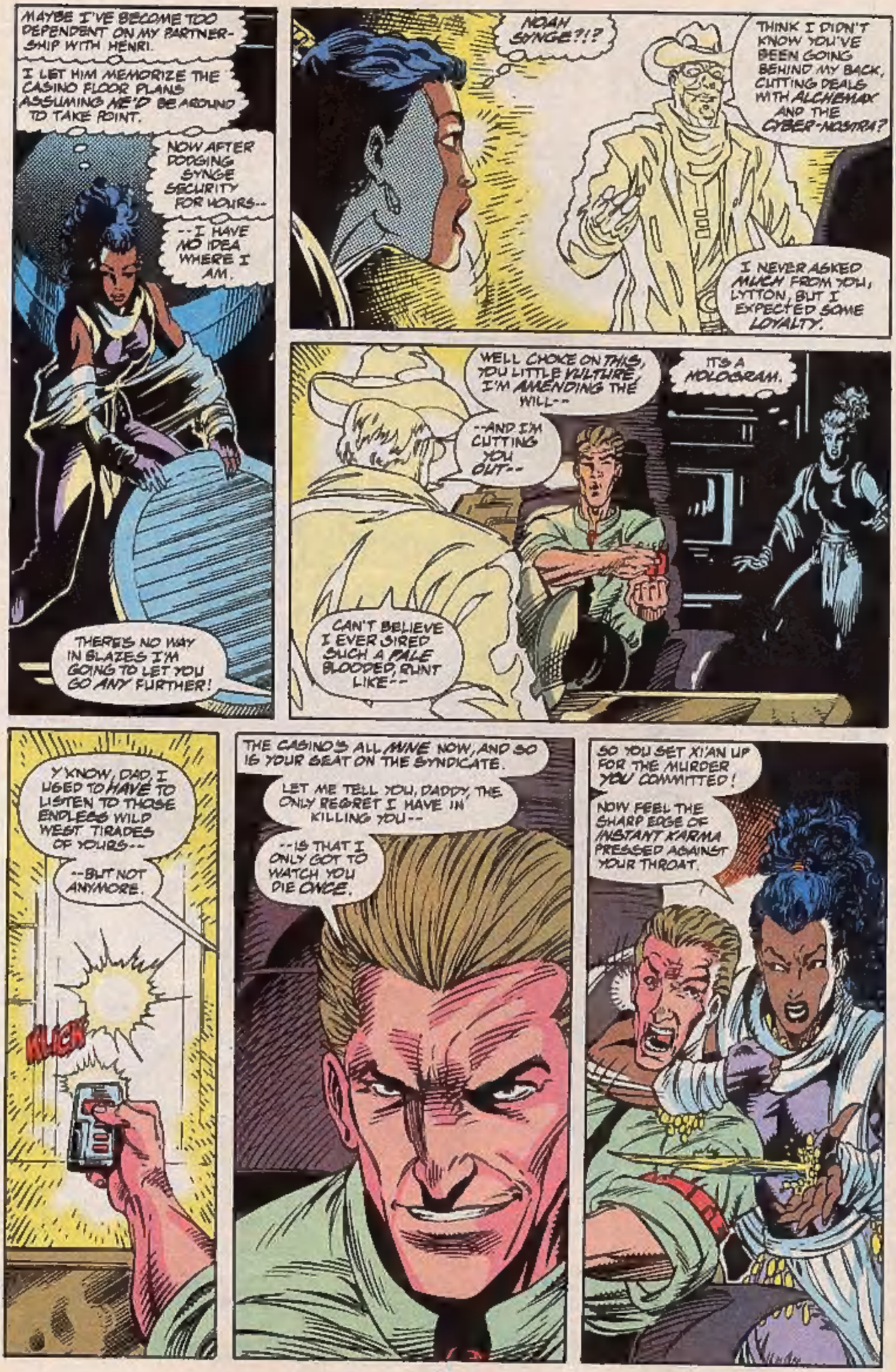
WHAT'S THAT GARGOYLE DOING BACK IN THE CITY?
HE KNOWS SYNGE SIGNED A DEATH WARRANT ON HIM.
WHO CARES? WE ALL GOT OUR BUTTS CHEWED OFF WHEN HE ESCAPED FROM HOLDING THREE DAYS AGO.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
CALL FOR BACKUP. THIS TIME WE NAIL THOSE WINGS TO A WALL.
HOLD YOUR FIRE! HOLD YOUR FIRE!
HE'S USING THE GUESTS FOR COVER!
OUTTA THE WAY, COW! THIS ISN'T PART OF THE CASINO'S SHOW!
DID YOU HEAR ME? YOU'RE BLOCKING MY SHOT, YOU STUPID TOURI--
--URK--
THIS ONE'S YOURS, FITZ.


THIS IS STUPID, SHAKTI.
HENRI, EDDIE AND KRYS CAME HERE TO FIND EVIDENCE XI'AN DIDN'T KILL NOAH SYNGE, AND THEY GOT CAPTURED.
HOW CAN WE GET THEM OUT DRESSED LIKE SYNGE SECURITY?
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS GET THROUGH THE CASINO AND INTO THE HOTEL OFFICES UNNOTICED.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE THE TIME BLOODHAWK BOUGHT US.
I DON'T GET THAT GUY. HE SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT TO HELP US-- BUT HE KEEPS BAILING US OUT.
CAN'T YOU JUST KNOCK OUT THE ROOM LIKE YOU DID THESE GOONS?
SHE CAN ONLY SCRAMBLE A FEW PEOPLE'S BRAINS AT A TIME.
OTHERWISE, THIS WOULD BE A CAKE-WALK.
LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THIS PLACE. HOW CAN WE FIND THE OTHERS-- LET ALONE FREE THEM?
MY PSI-ABILITIES CAN SENSE OTHER MUTANTS ONCE I'M IN CLOSE PROXIMITY.
THAT'S WHY MEANSTREAK CALLS ME CEREBRA. I BELIEVE HE MEANT IT AS A JO--
SHAKTI, WHAT'S WRONG?
"XI'AN--
--BUT HIS LIFE FORCE IS FAINT, AS IF HE'S ON THE VERGE OF DEATH."
HEY, BRO'. YOU DESERVE BETTER THAN TO BE LEFT FOR THE LABRATS--
--BUT THIS FUNKY SHELL YOU'VE DEVELOPED SINCE GETTING SHOT IS MAKING SYNGE'S MEDTECHS SALIVATE--
YOU TWO LOOK LIKE DEER CAUGHT IN HEADLIGHTS. SOMETHING SCARE YOU?

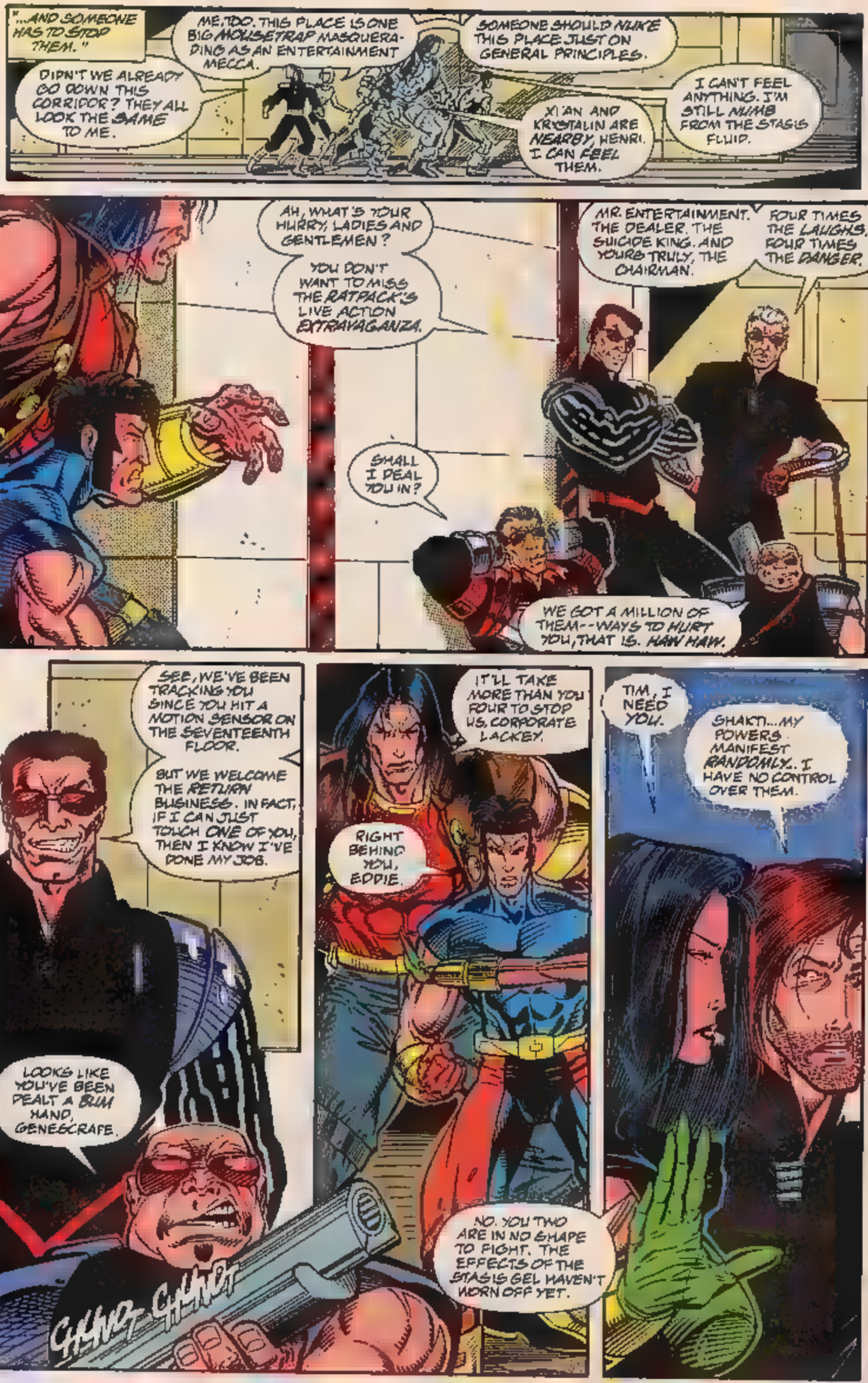

MIZ SYNGE! WE WEREN'T EXPECTING YOU!
MISTER JUNKPILE BROUGHT THE MUTANT HERE. PERHAPS YOU SHOULDN'T DISTURB HIM. HE'S POTENTIALLY--
DANGEROUS? OOooh, I'M SHAKING, BOYS.
EXCUSE ME.
HEY!!
SO THIS IS THE MAN LYTTON CLAIMS KILLED MY FATHER--
--NOT QUITE THE MUTANT ANTI-CHRIST DADDY RAVED ABOUT.
MORE LIKE AN OVERSIZED HANDBAG.
TELL ME, TIN MAN-- IF YOU AND THE GUCCI BAG HERE USED TO RIDE WITH THE SAME OUTLAW GANG--
--WHAT MADE YOU GIVE UP YOUR FELLOW OUTLAW--YOUR FELLOW MUTANT TO SOMEONE LIKE MY BROTHER?
YOU ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS, GIRL.
I'M A WOMAN WHO NEEDS A LOT OF ANSWERS.
SO LET'S YOU AND I TALK.
SOMEWHERE PRIVATE.

WE'VE BEEN LUCKY, SHAKTI.
WHUMP
WHUMP
A FEW GRUNTS, A FEW MEDTECHS. NO REAL THREATS.
BUT WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY OF SYNGE'S BIG GUNS YET.
ONCE WE FREE HENRI AND EDDIE, WE'LL BE BETTER PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SYNGE'S ENFORCERS.
XI'AN IS SURE TO BE UNDER HEAVY GUARD.
NOT TO MENTION JUNKPILE. I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO RUNNING INTO HIM AGAIN.
MY NECK STILL HURTS FROM THAT CHOKE HOLD HE PUT ME IN.
WHAT ARE THEY SUSPENDED IN? MOTOR OIL?
STASIS GEL. IT DEADENS THE NERVES AND SLOWS THE BODY'S METABOLIC RATE TO A MINIMUM—
--UNTIL THEY CAN BE FISHED OUT FOR A MAINSTAGE EXECUTION, RIGHT?
NOT THIS TIME. ACCORDING TO THE COMPUTER, LYTTON AUTHORIZED THEIR TRANSFER TO AN ALCHEMAX BIOSHOP.
HOWEVER, THAT LAB WILL HAVE TO DO WITHOUT TWO NEW MUTANT GUINEA PIGS.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO OVERRIDE THE STASIS LOCKS IN ANOTHER MINUTE.
KRAK
KRAK
FORGET THE STUPID COMPUTER, SHAKTI!
I CAN'T STAND SEEING MY FRIENDS BOTTLED UP LIKE SO MUCH FOOD PRODUCT.

KEERASH
SPLOOSH
OKAY, THEY'RE OUT, BUT NOW WE'RE KNEE-DEEP IN GUNK!
JAAFF!... AT LEAST... YOU DIDN'T... JAAFF! HAVE TO... TASTE... IT... FITZ--
THAT WAS FOOLISH, TINA. YOU COULD HAVE TRIPPED ANY NUMBER OF ALARMS.
BUT I DIDN'T. AND THEY'RE OKAY.
AREN'T THEY?
HOW ARE YOU DOING, GUYS? YOU IN ANY SHAPE TO GET OUT OF HERE?
UGGH...
YUK. WHO INVENTED THIS STUFF?
GIVE ME A MINUTE. STILL NUMB. FEEL LIKE I TOOK A BATH IN NOVOCAINE.
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHERE'S XI'AN?
HERE IN THE HOTEL. JUNKPILE GRABBED HIM AT THE DAM.
WHAT ABOUT KRYSTALIN?
SHE WAS WITH US WHEN THE RATPACK KNOCKED US OUT.
WE DON'T KNOW. WE THOUGHT SHE'D BE WITH YOU.

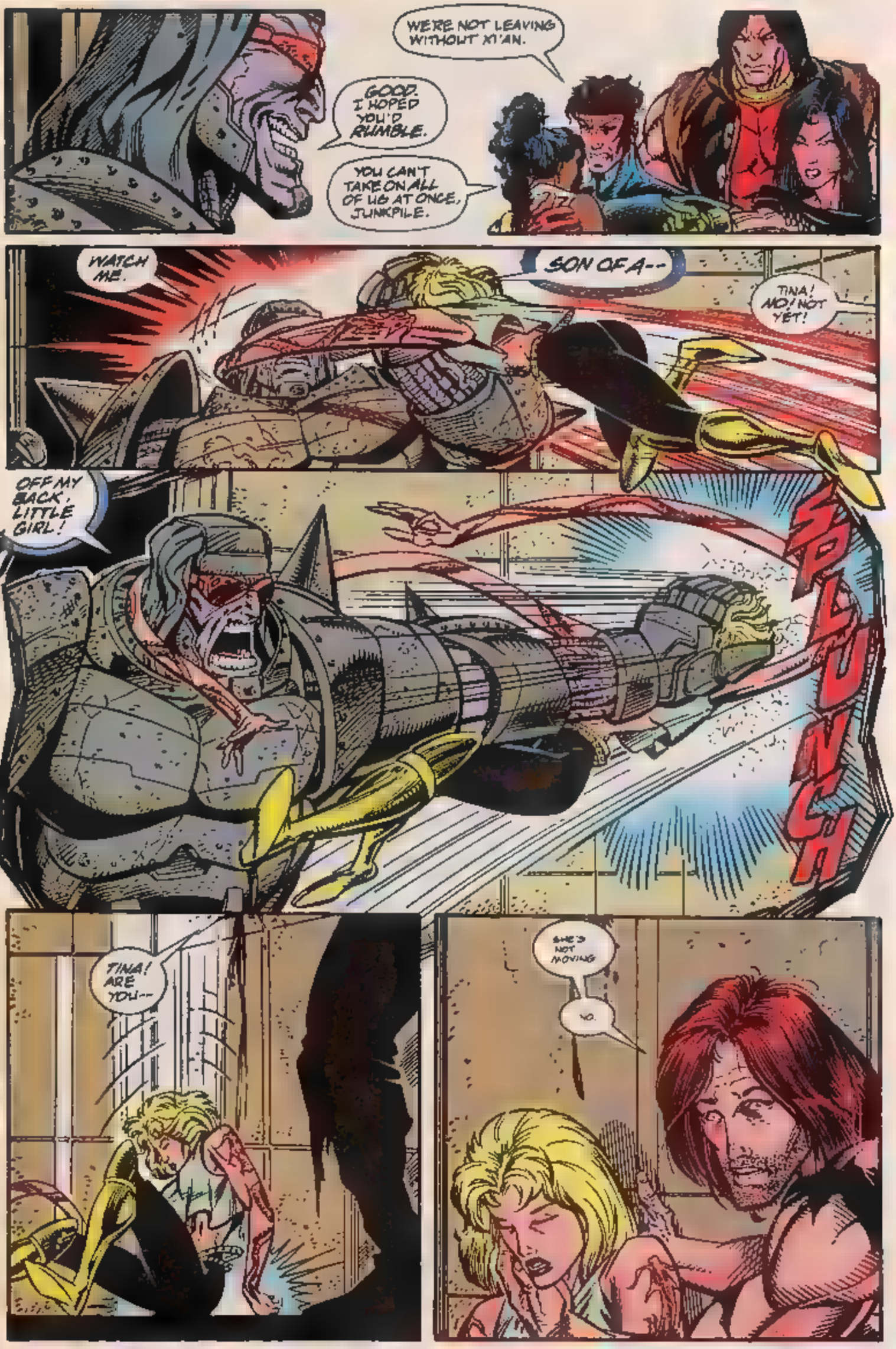

MAYBE I'VE BECOME TOO DEPENDENT ON MY PARTNERSHIP WITH HENRI.
I LET HIM MEMORIZE THE CASINO FLOOR PLANS ASSUMING HE'D BE AROUND TO TAKE POINT.
NOW AFTER DODGING SYNGE SECURITY FOR HOURS--
--I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I AM.
THERE'S NO WAY IN BLAZES I'M GOING TO LET YOU GO ANY FURTHER!
NOAH SYNGE?!?
THINK I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'VE BEEN GOING BEHIND MY BACK, CUTTING DEALS WITH ALCHEMAX AND THE CYBER-MOSTRA?
I NEVER ASKED MUCH FROM YOU, LYTTON, BUT I EXPECTED SOME LOYALTY.
WELL CHOKE ON THIS, YOU LITTLE VULTURE, I'M AMENDING THE WILL--
--AND I'M CUTTING YOU OUT--
IT'S A HOLOGRAM.
CAN'T BELIEVE I EVER SIRED SUCH A PALE BLOODED, RUNT LIKE--
Y'KNOW, DAD, I USED TO HAVE TO LISTEN TO THOSE ENDLESS WILD WEST TIRADES OF YOURS--
--BUT NOT ANYMORE.
KLICK
THE CASINO'S ALL MINE NOW, AND SO IS YOUR SEAT ON THE SYNDICATE.
LET ME TELL YOU, DADDY, THE ONLY REGRET I HAVE IN KILLING YOU--
--IS THAT I ONLY GOT TO WATCH YOU DIE ONCE.
SO YOU SET X'IAN UP FOR THE MURDER YOU COMMITTED!
NOW FEEL THE SHARP EDGE OF INSTANT KARMA PRESSED AGAINST YOUR THROAT.

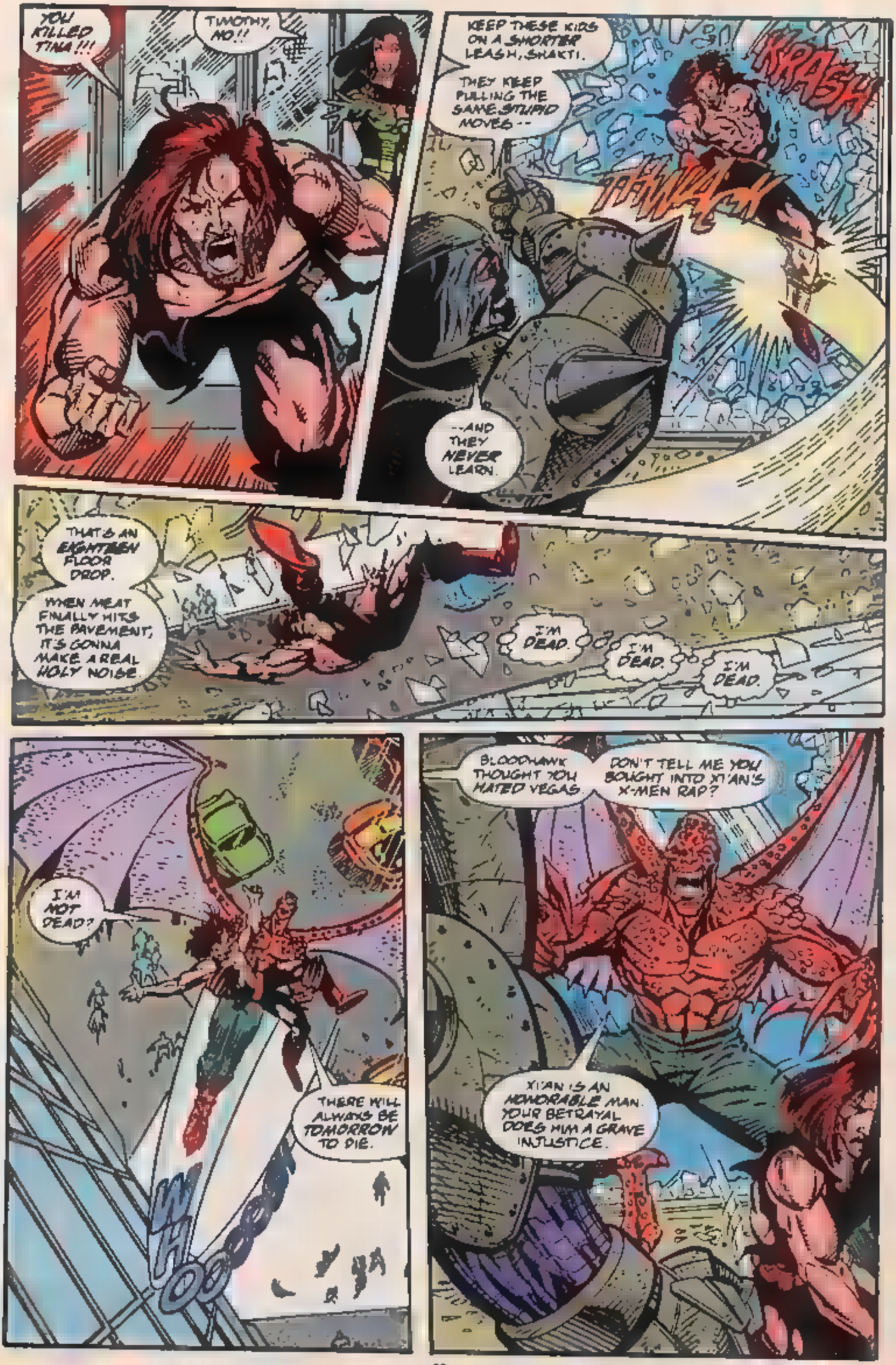
THE SYNDICATE WILL BE INTERESTED IN HEARING THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S DEATH.
THEY FROWN ON PATRICIDE--NO MATTER HOW JUSTIFIABLE.
KRYSTALIN--RIGHT? AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE THE COMPASSIONATE MEMBER OF XI'AN'S LITTLE MUTANT MOB?
YOU DON'T DESERVE COMPASS--
GIVE IT A REST, KRYS, YOU DON'T PLAY HARD BOILED WELL.
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT RESISTING. YOUR CRYSTAL SHARDS WERE NEVER A MATCH AGAINST MY ARMORED HIDE.
KILL THE WITCH, JUNKPILE! IF YOU WON'T, I WILL.
NEVER COULD KEEP A SECRET FROM ME, BROTHER.
DESDEMONA? GET OUT OF HERE, SIS!
NO, LYTTON, IT'S TIME I TAKE CHARGE.
--AS MUCH AS I HATE CLEANING UP YOUR MESS, WE STILL HAVE A BAND OF MUTANTS ROAMING THE CASINO...
JUST BECAUSE SHE KNOWS YOU ICED YOUR OLD MAN, AND SET UP XI'AN FOR IT?
YOU'LL END UP SPILLING IT YOURSELF--SOONER OR LATER. YOU'RE TOO PLEASED WITH YOURSELF.


"...AND SOMEONE HAS TO STOP THEM."
ME, TOO. THIS PLACE IS ONE BIG MOUSETRAP MASQUERADING AS AN ENTERTAINMENT MECCA.
SOMEONE SHOULD NUKE THIS PLACE JUST ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES.
DIDN'T WE ALREADY GO DOWN THIS CORRIDOR? THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME TO ME.
XI'AN AND KRYSTALIN ARE NEARBY, HENRI. I CAN FEEL THEM.
I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING. I'M STILL NUMB FROM THE STASIS FLUID.
AH, WHAT'S YOUR HURRY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN?
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE RATPACK'S LIVE ACTION EXTRAVAGANZA.
SHALL I DEAL YOU IN?
MR. ENTERTAINMENT. THE DEALER. THE SUICIDE KING. AND YOURS TRULY, THE CHAIRMAN.
FOUR TIMES THE LAUGHS. FOUR TIMES THE DANGER.
WE GOT A MILLION OF THEM--WAYS TO HURT YOU, THAT IS. HAW HAW.
SEE, WE'VE BEEN TRACKING YOU SINCE YOU HIT A MOTION SENSOR ON THE SEVENTEENTH FLOOR.
BUT WE WELCOME THE RETURN BUSINESS. IN FACT, IF I CAN JUST TOUCH ONE OF YOU, THEN I KNOW I'VE DONE MY JOB.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN DEALT A BUM HAND, GENEGRAFE.
CHUNG-CHUNG
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN YOU FOUR TO STOP U.S. CORPORATE LACKEY.
RIGHT BEHIND YOU, EDDIE.
NO. YOU TWO ARE IN NO SHAPE TO FIGHT. THE EFFECTS OF THE STASIS GEL HAVEN'T WORN OFF YET.
TIM, I NEED YOU.
SHAKTI... MY POWERS MANIFEST RANDOMLY. I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THEM.

YOU CAN DO MORE THAN YOU KNOW.
YOU JUST NEED A PUSH.
UHHHH...
SHOW ME, BOYS. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE KID. HE'S TOO WET BEHIND THE EARS TO DO US ANY--
ZZZHRROOW
WOW. DID I DO THAT?
YOUR POWER OPERATES AS A BASIC ANIMAL RESPONSE TO STRESS AND DANGER.
NOT BEING A HIGHER BRAIN FUNCTION, I CAN TRIGGER THE REACTION PSIONICALLY.
YOU WERE GREAT, FITZ. THE RATPACK DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIT THEM.
WELL DONE, BROTHER.
ACCORDING [redacted] MR. ENTERTAINMENT'S COM, THEY'RE HOLDING XI'AN IN THE EAST WING.
AFTER TIM'S LITTLE DISPLAY, THEY DEFINITELY KNOW WE'RE HERE.
SO LET'S MOVE.

...ORDERS TO EVACUATE...
...CLEARING THIS WING...
...THE OTHER MUTANTS...
...WHAT ABOUT OUR SUBJECT...
...IF THEY STOPPED THE RATPACK, THEY CAN HAVE HIM...
KRAAK!
SYNGE MEDICAL LABORATORY
Testing and Processing
I'LL TAKE POINT.
WE'VE SPENT ENOUGH TIME RUNNING AROUND THIS NEONLIT MAZE...
...ARE YOU SURE XI'AN'S INSIDE, SHAKTI?
THE SECURITY RECORDS WE ACCESSED USING THE RATPACK'S CODES SAY HE IS--
--BUT I SENSE ONLY THE VAGUEST HINT OF HIS LIFE ESSENCE--
--AND THAT... WORRIES... ME.
SHOOOOOOP
THE DOOR...
KRYS?
DON'T CRY, MEAT. SHE'S NOT DEAD-- JUST UNCONSCIOUS.
TAKE HER AND GO. THAT WAY YOU'LL LIVE TO PLAY :SNORT: X-MEN SOME OTHER DAY.


WE'RE NOT LEAVING WITHOUT XI'AN.
GOOD. I HOPED YOU'D RUMBLE.
YOU CAN'T TAKE ON ALL OF US AT ONCE, JUNKPILE.
WATCH ME.
SON OF A--
TINA! NO! NOT YET!
OFF MY BACK, LITTLE GIRL!
SPLUNCH
TINA! ARE YOU--
SHE'S NOT MOVING
NO.


YOU KILLED TINA!!!
TIMOTHY, NO!!
KEEP THESE KIDS ON A SHORTER LEASH, SHAKTI.
THEY KEEP PULLING THE SAME STUPID MOVES--
KRASH
--AND THEY NEVER LEARN.
THAT'S AN EIGHTEEN FLOOR DROP.
WHEN MEAT FINALLY HITS THE PAVEMENT, IT'S GONNA MAKE A REAL HOLY NOISE.
I'M DEAD.
I'M DEAD.
I'M DEAD.
I'M NOT DEAD?
THERE WILL ALWAYS BE TOMORROW TO DIE.
WHOOO
BLOODHAWK THOUGHT YOU HATED VEGAS.
DON'T TELL ME YOU BOUGHT INTO XI'AN'S X-MEN RAP?
XI'AN IS AN HONORABLE MAN. YOUR BETRAYAL DOES HIM A GRAVE INJUSTICE.

ALL WHO ALLY THEMSELVES WITH SYNGE BECOME MY ENEMIES.
WHACK
SHAKTI, HAWK'S GONNA BE NO GOOD AGAINST JUNKPILE IN THESE CLOSED QUARTERS.
YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM OUT.
I CAN'T. JUNKPILE'S WEARING A PSI DAMPER THAT BLOCKS MY POWER.
BLOODHAWK, YOU SHOULD'VE STUCK TO FIREBOMBING GARBAGE TRANSPORTS AND CONSTRUCTION SITES.
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PROTECTING THE DESERT YOU'VE APPOINTED YOURSELF GUARDIAN OF--
--THIS IS JUST A DOMESTIC SQUABBLE YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE INVOLVED YOURSELF IN.
KRAK
FEEL FREE TO SCREAM IF YOU WANT.

THIS VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUR MUTANT BRETHREN ENDS HERE --
--NOW THAT MY POWER HAS RETURNED, YOU FACE ANOTHER MAN OF METAL.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT BOLT FELL OFF THAT RUST COVERED BRAIN TO MAKE YOU SELL US OUT TO LYTTON SYNGE--
--BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO LET YOU WALK AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO TINA.
YOU CAN BE SURE OF ONE THING, YOU SCRAP METAL JUDAS --
--WE'RE GONNA REDUCE YOU TO A PILE OF METAL SHAVINGS.
MANY DEAD MEN HAVE SAID THE SAME THING.
TOO BAD. I THOUGHT AT LEAST SOME OF YOU WOULD BE SMART ENOUGH TO WALK AWAY.
XI'AN REALLY DID A NUMBER ON YOU WITH HIS PIE IN THE SKY PROMISES OF BROTHERHOOD.
JUNKPILE, YOU KNOW NOTHING OF THE BONDS OF LOYALTY.
YOU ARE [redacted] MORE THAN A DISTEMPERED ANIMAL THAT NEEDS TO BE PUT TO SLEEP
TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT BOYS AND GI--
NO MORE!

ENOUGH MUTANT BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED TODAY.
XI'AN, YOU'RE ALIVE!
IT SEEMS MY BODY HAS AN UNUSUAL HEALING PROCESS.
SHOULD'VE STAYED IN YOUR COCOON, BROTHER.
JUNKPILE, YOU DISAPPOINT ME.
YEAH I MADE A MISTAKE. I NEVER SHOULD'VE LET THAT SHARPSHOOTER INTO THE GATHERING--
I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU MYSELF.
YOU'RE TOO SLOW FOR THAT, BROTHER.
ALWAYS SO SMUG, XI'AN, JUST LIKE YOU WERE IN THE LAWLESS.
--BUT ONCE I CONNECT, I'LL--
URRGGMPPHH!!
YOU SHOULD HAVE WORRIED ABOUT ME CONNECTING.
ONE TOUCH OF MY HAND DISRUPTS THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF THE METAL IN YOUR BODY.
I IMAGINE IT IS QUITE PAINFUL.

KLANGG
YOU BETTER KILL ME NOW, MY BROTHER...
...BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T, I'LL COME BACK.
YOU WILL HEAL AND REBUILD YOURSELF--AS YOU ALWAYS DO.
AND WHEN YOU RECONSTRUCT YOUR SOUL AS WELL, YOU WILL RETURN--
--AS A FRIEND AND ALLY.
NEVER... UNNGH'GH...
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING. YOU CAN'T FORGIVE JUNKPILE.
HE SET YOU UP FOR SYNGE'S ASSASSIN. HE MURDERED TINA.
THE BOY IS RIGHT. YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM.
ALIVE HE WILL ONLY CAUSE YOU MORE GRIEF IN THE FUTURE.
IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, YES, JUNKPILE IS MUCH LIKE I ONCE WAS--FUELED BY HATRED, DRIVEN BY POWER.
--BUT THE POSSIBILITY FOR UNEXPECTED AND TRANSCENDENT CHANGE EXISTS IN US ALL.

WITNESS MY TRANSFORMATION FROM DESTROYER TO HEALER.
THE PHYSICAL TRAUMA OF MY INJURY CATALYZED A SECOND MUTANT ABILITY.
SINCE CHILDHOOD, I HAVE LIVED WITH ONE HAND WHOSE TOUCH BROUGHT CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION.
NOW A BALANCE IS STRUCK--
--AND THE OTHER HAND OFFERS REDEMPTION.
MY WING. IT IS NO LONGER BROKEN.
XI'AN, IF YOU'VE GAINED THE POWER TO HEAL, YOU CAN SAVE TINA.
WHEN YOU RESCUED HER FROM THE FLESH MALLS YOU GAVE HER A NEW LIFE.
PERHAPS YOU CAN DO SO AGAIN.
THE GIRL DESERVES A BETTER FATE, XI'AN.
NOTHING.
TINA. I'M SORRY.
I CAN HEAL THE LIVING, BUT I CANNOT RAISE THE DEAD.
NO ONE EVER SAID LIFE WAS FAIR.

DESDEMONA.
IF YOU THINK WE'RE GONNA TAKE THE FALL FOR YOUR FATHER'S MURDER--
--YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING, LADY.
TELL YOUR PEOPLE TO RESTRAIN THEMSELVES, XI'AN.
THE CASINO IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.
I KNOW LYTTON KILLED DADDY, AND SET YOU UP.
AFTER ALL, WHO THOUGHT SOME MUTANT NOMARS WOULD BE SO MUCH TROUBLE!
AND YOUR BROTHER?
I LOCKED HIM UP IN ISOLATION. IF HE DOESN'T DIE OF SHRIEK WITHDRAWAL, HE'LL FACE A SYNDICATE TRIBUNAL.
THEN WE NO LONGER NEED TO BE HERE.
LET US CARRY OUT OUR DEAD.
TAKE A WALK, XI'AN--
--BUT IF I EVER SEE YOU OR YOUR MUTANT ENTOURAGE IN MY CITY AGAIN--
--I MAY NOT BE THIS GENEROUS.

LATER.
...IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS YOU WERE RADIANT LIGHT...
...IN A MAELSTROM OF SUFFERING YOU WERE HOPE.
FAREWELL, LITTLE SISTER.
I'M GOING TO MISS YOU, TINA.
YOU WERE THE FIRST REAL FRIEND I'VE HAD IN A LONG TIME.
MAY YOU FIND LIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE, GIRL.
XI'AN, I MOURN YOUR LOSS, BUT I CANNOT STAND AMONG YOU.
MY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO THE LAND.
UNDERSTOOD. YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME WITH US, HAWK.
AND WHAT OF YOU, TIMOTHY FITZGERALD--WILL YOU STAY?
EVERYTHING'S SO CONFUSING. AND WITH TINA GONE...
...I JUST DON'T KNOW.
THE ORIGINAL X-MEN WEATHERED MUCH WORSE THAN WE HAVE SEEN HERE.
THEIR COMMITMENT TO ONE ANOTHER WAS THEIR STRENGTH IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSITY.
THAT IS WHY I CHOSE TO REVIVE THEIR NAME AND CAUSE.
TINA TRUSTED YOU, BELIEVED IN YOUR DREAM.
I GUESS I CAN DO THE GAME.
I'LL STAY.

I OFFER NO ASSURANCES THAT TINA WILL BE THE ONLY ONE OF US TO FALL.
TOGETHER WE BEGIN THE FIGHT TO CLAIM OUR HERITAGE AND CREATE OUR FUTURE.
WE ARE X-MEN--
--AND WE WILL SET THIS WORLD ON FIRE.

ELSEWHERE.
AAAAAAAA
OH MY CHILDREN, HOW ENTRANCING IS YOUR SONATA OF SUFFERING.
AS YOU WRITHE IN AGONY, BE HEARTENED THAT YOUR PAIN SERVES A HIGHER CAUSE--
--THAT OF ART.
INCOMING MESSAGE.
AAAAAA
PROJECT, FULL SIZE.
BRIMSTONE LOVE.
TO WHAT DO I OWE THE HONOR OF THE THEATER'S MOST DISTINGUISHED MEMBER?
SARCASM IS A DANGEROUS WEAPON TO WIELD, THIRTEEN.
MY APOLOGIES.
AN INTRIGUING MUTANT PHENOMENON HAS EMERGED IN YOUR DISTRICT.
I SUGGEST YOU INVESTIGATE AND EXPLORE WHAT NEW ENTERTAINMENT IT MAY OFFER THE THEATER.
AS YOU WISH.
LUNA, COME. COME. A NEW GAME BEGINS.
GRRRRR
NEXT: THE DARKROOM.